bBr 403.104 (1)

172 Pearl, cor. Pine Street.

NEW-YORK, March 9th 1869

Mr. Wm Brewster

Dear Sir

Yours of the 7th is to hand. At present I could not spare a copy of the paper requested, as there are but a few left, and I have to supply some Societies yet with a series of my papers, including this one.—

I will keep your request in view, & may be able to send you a copy at some future time.

Yours respectfully
Geo. N Lawrence

Lawrence
G. N.

Mar. 9th 1869

172 Pearl, cor. Pine Street.

NEW-YORK, Feb. 9th 1860

Mr W. Brewster

Dear Sir

I have sent you by mail a copy of my last paper on So. Am. Birds &c. also one of the Birds around N. Y. &c written for last year — which I got from a friend who did not require it —

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

Laurence G. N.

Feb- 9- '60

172 Pearl, cor. Pine Street,

NEW-YORK, April 28th 1871

Mr. W. Brewster

Dear Sir

By mail to day I send you an extra of my paper on the Birds around N.Y. I found the Lyceum had some extra signatures of it, which I obtained and according to promise send you a copy -

Yours truly
Geo. N. Lawrence

Laurence G. N.
April 28 - 71

172 Pearl, cor. Pine Street.

NEW YORK, Dec 12th 1873

My dear Mr Brewster

Your favor of the 9th is just to hand — Please send on the Tern at any time when it suits you, and I will endeavor to identify it. — As you offer to send A. maculata at the same time, I would like to see it.

I was sorry to learn by the Papers of the illness of Prof. Agassiz — I see by to day's Paper his condition was more hopeful. —

If Henshaw has returned, I will be happy to see him at any time when passing through our City.

Perhaps you will be tempted to visit Washington this winter — Baird writes they are receiving the Collections from the Rocky Mts. &c. and when all are in, they will have 4 or 5 thousand specimens of birds.

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

Mr. B. Diamond

Dec. 12 - 75

New York Dec 22. 1873

My dear Brewster

The box of birds came safely to hand & I am much obliged by your sending them - The Humming Bird seems to be properly identified, though not in very good condition - the late conclusion respecting it is probably correct, for if you had shot it, you surely would have noticed its green breast, so different from T. colubris; the other birds are of much interest - the Tern in the colors above & those of the wings & tail, agrees with the Arctic Tern (S. macroura), & has the very short tarsi, a strong characteristic of that species, agreeing also in general dimensions & in the form of the bill - it differs in having black bill & feet instead of red -

in North America & figured by Wilson, evidently confounding it with the Common Terns.

With your permission will retain the birds until I hear from Baird respecting the Tern he has. —

Yours truly -

Geo. N. Lawrence

Lawrence N.Y.
Dec. 22 - 73 -

and in the ~~under~~ under plumage being white instead of grey - I incline to think it is that species, perhaps its winter dress, of which I have seen no description, the partial want of black on the head seems to favor this view, as it is certainly adult. As Prof Baird was on his way home last fall, he told me he had a Tern with a black bill, which puzzled him, & was to show it to me, but forgot to do so. I will write him to send it on, or let me know if he had determined it, I think it probable that it will prove the same as yours —

The Bunting is not the least like the Lapland, & if killed in America, seems to me of much interest, please let me know where it came from - & what you know concerning it. -

I at once saw its resemblance to the Snow Bunting P. nivalis - and on comparison with the different plumages of that species found them in my opinion totally different and was inclined to think you had got a new Snow Bunting, which seemed hardly possible. - It looked to me like some Arctic bird, possibly a straggler from the Old World, with that idea I investigated the different European Authorities to see what was said of the Snow Bunting and its allies. I found in Bree's Birds of Europe an accurated figure and description of the bird - "The Snow Finch" — Montefringilla nivalis, from the Alpine regions of Europe - see Brees as above Vol. III, p. 110. he refers to Gould's Birds of Europe Pl. 189 - You may find one or both of these works in the Bost. Soc. of N. H. & possibly the bird in their Museum — Brees says found also

172 Pearl, cor. Pine Street.

NEW YORK, Dec 29th 1873

My dear Brewster

I wrote you on the 22d. in relation to the Snow Finch and Tern, which letter you doubtless received.—

I have just rec'd. a letter from Baird in reply to my enquiries about the Tern he procured last summer.— He says "I have no doubt your Tern is precisely the same as mine, which I regret was not shown you. Ridgway has already described it as S. longipennis Vig. Please send yours on here, so that I may compare it with the type."

I shall not send it to him without your consent, what do you say?

From his description the two seem to agree — he further says "I may safely say, I have seen a thousand skins of the Arctic Tern, and never saw one with black legs." Awaiting your reply —

I am, yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

Lawrence G. N.

Dec. 29 – 73.

172 Pearl, cor. Pine Street.

NEW YORK, March 9th 1874

My dear Brewster

I proposed you as a Corresponding member of our Lyceum & send herewith certificate of your election, which please acknowledge to the Lyceum.

I was in daily expectation of receiving back the Tern loaned Baird & wanted to advise you of its return with the other birds sent me — hence the delay in sending the certificate (as you will see by the date) & now regret I did not send it sooner.

I will return the birds as soon as the Tern is received.

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

Lawrence S. V.

March. 9– 14

172 Pearl, cor. Pine Street.

NEW-YORK, March 16th 1874

My dear Brewster

You being a correspondent of the Lyceum — gives you the opportunity to offer any article for publication, but does not make it incumbent upon you to do so. Henshaw has promised to call on his way home, I will send the other two birds by him, unless you wish them sooner. It is quite an event to get Spizella breweri in your neighborhood.

Your Gull is no doubt the bird called L. kutchinsii by Coues in his monograph of Larinæ, but in his Key he puts it under L. glaucus with a? I have a specimen, obtained in the market here, many years ago, which measured 29½in. in length and 60 in extent of wings, I had labelled it L. glaucus, but Coues said it was L. kutchinsii, though now he appears to have changed his mind — It is mottled above & on the tail with pale fawn color, the wings white — yours probably younger — I incline to the opinion it is distinct from glaucus. — H. Herrick was told at Grand Menan, that a pure white Gull came there in winter, probably the adult of this, he requested examples sent him, & Ryan since received a specimen older than mine, having the spots near obsolete — I think its status is as yet unsettled & for the present would let it stand as L. kutchinsii

I know but little of the desirability of places in Penn. or N. J. for the purpose of collecting, around Philadelphia - I think there is great opposition to N. Lawrence, Hall & Baird &c. I believe the vicinity of Washington is an excellent locality - Cones being a resident, & having collected there for many years, can give the required information - Let Henshaw ask him, & also about Maryland. -

If you inclined to go as far as Charleston, you could doubtless do much better - Years ago I got some of my best specimens, obtained there by Mr. A. Galbraith, who went there for the purpose of collecting - viz - Ivory billed Woodpecker, Swainson's Warbler, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Nonpareil, Pencaa astivalis &c. besides Egrets & Darters - It may not be so good there now - but Cones I think will know. -

I have made a start again to get Photographs for my Zoological Album, & will be obliged for yours, with autograph on the back. -

Yours truly
Geo. N. Lawrence

172 Pearl, cor. Pine Street.

NEW YORK, March 23d 1874

My dear Brewster

Your favor of the 18th with Photograph, for which am much obliged, enclosed please find mine in return.

I think West Virginia must be a good region for collecting, & hope you may not be disapointed.

I would so prepared for Trout fishing, for which you will be there at the right season, & no doubt there are plenty in the mountain streams.

I will keep the two birds of yours for Henshaw's return, who has promised to call at that time.

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

Lawrence G. V.
Mch. 23-74

New York Dec. 24th 1874

My dear Brewster

Your letter of the 21st came to hand yesterday - I immediately wrote to Mr Bloxd, Chairman of the Pub. Committee, in relation to your paper, & have his reply - He writes; "Mr Morrison wrote from Cambridge about an insect paper, I answered telling him to send it to me, but have not heard since" - He says further; "I think Brewsters paper can be published; if it comes before Morrison's he may have to be left out" - We are now printing & it can be put in hand at once - send it to me and I will hand it to Mr Bloxd. -

As regards "Extras" the Lyceum used to furnish 20 copies, but they are so low in funds, parties generally pay for those they want - the Annals are now printed

Thomas Dwight Jr.
Dec. 24 - 74

at Salem, where they charge moderately. You would probably want more than 20 - mark on the M.S. how many you would require. - I have paid for all my extras for years. -

I was surprised to hear that you had a new Helminthophaga, and at first thought it might be the same as Herrickii, but your description soon ~~beat~~ that at rest. It is very remarkable to get in the Eastern States, ~~to get~~ two new species in a genus containing so limited a number. -

I would much like to see your bird at some time, but do not take any special trouble about it -

I had a letter from Henshaw yesterday - & have answered, directing to him at "Boston" - when dated - as he gives no particular address - should you see him please mention it. -

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

Laurence G. K.
Dec. 31 – 1874

New York Dec 31st 1874

My dear Brewster

Your letter and the MS. were both received yesterday.

I saw Mr Bland about publishing it – but unfortunately that Insect Paper had been received & sent to the printer — therefore it cannot appear in the Number now in press – but from what he said, it will not be long before Stanton's matter, perhaps 2 or 3 months – but if you so desire, I will retain the MS & let you know as soon as I find out when it can be printed –

In the mean time if an earlier opportunity for printing elsewhere should offer – you can recal it.

I have not seen Herrick

since receiving your message,
as he lives over in N. Jersey -
but will no doubt shortly --

Wishing you the compliments
of the season - - - -

I am, yours truly
Geo. N. Lawrence

172 Pearl, cor. Pine Street.

NEW YORK, March 20th 1875

My dear Brewster

Your paper on West Virginia birds will be sent to the printer in a few days — Our Annals are ~~now~~ printed at the Naturalists' Agency, Salem. —

I suppose you have been on the look out for rarities during this hard winter — no doubt found plenty of the Pine Grosbeak — they were plentiful up the Hudson River, but do not appear to have been in the immediate vicinity of this city —

Herrick took a long tramp looking for them on Washington's birth-day, in New Jersey, but without success.

My nephew got an English Teal in market to day, & a few days since a fine Lapland Long-spur.

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

Lawrence G. V.

March. 20 - 18[illegible]

172 Pearl, cor. Pine Street.

NEW YORK, March 29th 1875

My dear Brewster

Yours of the 25th received. — The proofs of your paper will be sent you after coming to our Publication Committee, you can then forward them to Mr. Putnam at Salem — it may be 2 or 3 weeks before you will get them, although sent to the printer, as there are some short articles to print first —

Much obliged for the Am. Sportsman — which is taken by my brother in law, who lives with us, but I do not always see it, as he generally leaves it in his room — Herrick told me about it the day before getting your letter. —

(i.e. thick sabine)

Allen's is not the first notice, it is in the N. H. of the State of N. Y. Ornithology, p. 312, Plate 128 — also in Girand's Birds of L. I., & my Catalogue of Birds around N. Y. &c. — but one specimen has been obtained about here since on Long Island in 1837 — this was in the collection of H. C. DeRham —

and is now in the State Collection at Albanay - If I remember correctly, in fine adult plumage -

It is certainly remarkable that the birds you speak of should be obtained in such an exceptionally cold Winter, especially Helm. celata.

There seems to have been an unusual inroad of P. cruciator all over the country - though I think none immediately near New York.

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

Lawrence, N. Y.
Mch. 28-74

172 Pearl, cor. Pine Street.

NEW YORK, April 3d 1875

My dear Brewster

I sent the facts about X. Sabinei for your information, it is hardly necessary to make any further statement about it, unless some good opportunity offers. —

When you get the proof of your paper, you can mark on it, how many extras you would like I could not give you any idea of their cost, but if you will write to Mr. Putnam, stating the number required, he can let you know when it is in page form. —

Spring seems fairly opened & birds coming along, for the past 8 or 10 days P. iliaca has been abundant; last week my nephew got a one day dozen or more fine specimens —

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

Lawrence G. C.
Apr. 3 - 75

172 Pearl, cor. Pine Street.

NEW YORK, May 11th 1875

My dear Brewster

By mail to day I send proof of your paper, which please look over & send to J. W. Putnam Salem – It came yesterday, I went over it last evening; send it as soon as you can, as the number is I think nearly all printed – of course, retain your M.S. & pay postage, now 1¢ pr ounce.

If you wish extras mark how many on the proof, & say pages not to be altered, as it is better for reference to have them unchanged.

We have had 3 fine Spring days, in the Central Park on Sunday the Warblers & other birds were quite abundant, & doubtless some have reached you by this time.

Yours truly
Geo. N. Lawrence

Lawrence G. N.
May 11 - 75 -

172 Pearl, cor. Pine Street.

NEW YORK, Sept. 11th 1875

My dear Brewster

By Adams to day I send the type of Sterna fikei, as requested.

Coues as you doubtless know, in his "Key" referred it to S. longipennis, but in Birds of the N. W. decides it to be S. macrura — from my specimens of this species, it differs in its smaller measurements, & in having the hind neck and under parts white. When described the bill was perfect, in one of its many journeys to Washington & Philadelphia, it got injured, I think at the latter place. Will be glad to have your views about it —

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

Thanksgiving Day
Sept. 11-75

172 Pearl, cor. Pine Street.

NEW YORK, Sept 17th 1875

My dear Brewster

Your favor of the 15th is just to hand. — You can retain S. Pikei till through with your investigations, & I hope you may be able to determine its true position. —

If you would like to see my specimens of S. forsteri & the so called S. havelli, I will send them on your return if you will then notify me. —

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

Lawrence Sept. 17-75

172 Pearl, cor. Pine Street.

NEW YORK, Oct. 31st 1875

My dear Brewster

Your paper on St. Portlandica is received & Mr. Bland has agreed to have it printed at once, which is due to its being short, as lately we had to decline some on account of their length. The title will be read Monday night & it will be sent at once to Salem - when you get the proof, the number of extra wanted can be marked upon it.

By putting "Box M, S" in addition to the address - I see you had to pay letter postage - Such is the law, if any thing besides the address is on the Envelope, no matter how simple, they exact letter postage - otherwise it would have been 1¢ per oz.

I was much gratified that your conclusions agree with my determination.

As regards S. pikei, I think until it can be invalidated upon more certain grounds it had better be left

with its present title.

I am sorry to hear of your indisposition & trust it may not be of long continuance.

I was pleased to see your Virginia Fish so favorably noticed in the last No. of the Am. Naturalist.

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

Lawrence G. N.
Oct. 21 - 1875

172 Pearl, cor. Pine Street.

NEW YORK, January 16th 1870

My dear Brewster

I saw Blake yesterday, & was no tidings as yet of the extras, but expect them before long.

I have only been able to take a rather a hasty look at the Naturalist in its new dress, I see it is much improved in paper & type, & like its appearance very much; some of its new features promise to be very useful. I notice an important paper by Mr. Allen, but have not had time to read it carefully.

The fine weather we are having gives you an opportunity to hunt for specimens, & I trust you are well enough to take advantage of it.

I saw at Wallace's yesterday a dozen or more of white Owls, all mounted alike — but I have not heard any thing of the movements of other winter birds, Pine Grosbeaks &c.

Sincerely Geo. N. Lawrence

Lawrence, L. N.
Jan. 16, 1876.

172 Pearl, cor. Pine Street.

NEW YORK, Feb 11th 1870

My dear Brewster

Your enquiry as to the whereabouts of the extras of your paper, was received this morning

I have a paper put in before yours, & have been much disappointed not to get the extras of it —

I have made enquiries about my own & also your extras, & could only learn, that for some reason they were very dilatory at Salem in sending them on — I have just been to see Mr Blood, who could account for the delay, & write at once to know what was the matter — Generally they are very prompt at the Salem Press, & I could account for it —

Mr Blood is about giving up the charge of our publications, & is very desirous of closing matters up soon.

Perhaps you had better write Mr Putnam, asking when you may expect your extras.

over —

What I asked you about was of little moment, it was, whether the Pine Grosbeaks had appeared this winter - I have since seen by the Papers, that they are quite abundant in some localities.

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

Lawrence L. I.

Feb. 11 - 1876

45 East 21st St.

New York Jan 12th/77

My dear Brewster

Some weeks since I was in the office of Forest & Stream - when Mr. Hallock expressed a wish to get some one interested in his paper in the Eastern States, that its circulation in that direction might be increased. I mentioned Cambridge as a place where there were many persons actively engaged in subjects of a similar character to those - of which his paper was an exponent & named you as one, who if not inclined to take a share yourself - might know of some one who would.

I thought no more of the matter until yesterday, when I

Received from Mr. Hallock the letter & Circular, now enclosed, saying they had been returned to him - the wrong address of course the cause -

I gave it to him correctly.

The names of such stockholders as I know, are those of gentlemen of high standing -

The opening number of the new Vol. of the "Bulletin" is fully up to the mark & contains articles of much interest.

I have been at home for a month in consequence of a fall - but expect soon to be about again -

Yours truly
Geo. N. Lawrence

Lawrence G. N.
July 20 - 1878

New York July 20th/78

My dear Brewster

Your favor of the 9th was received while absent from the city. I could not reply understandingly to your inquiry as to the printing a paper in the Annals on the Birds of Oxford Co. Maine - without conferring with the Chairman of our Pubn Committee. I saw him last evening, he thinks it would be a desirable article to have, but we have as much material in hand as can be printed this year. Unfortunately we can only print a certain quantity each year. If you make no other arrangement, you can write towards the close of this year

& ascertain if we can publish it hereafter. As regards extra copies, the Society gives, say 20 copies — but as so many more are wanted, parties generally pay for those they require.

Ridgway wrote me about your expedition to Illinois — it must have been exceedingly satisfactory — the collecting about here, has been very poor this season.

Mr Teledon brought to the U. S. from Costa Rica, a collection of birds, which he & Ridgway have been examining; some that they could not make out — they sent me — One among them closely resembles in size & general coloration, Junco alticola (a large species from Mexico) except that it has brown markings on the back & there is no white in the tail — I suggested that it might be the young, but that I was not familiar with the young stage of any of the Juncos. Since then, I have seen your account of the first plumage of Junco hyemalis — which has I notice the dark stripes on the back — but you do not give the coloring of the tail — would like to know if it is white as in the adult, or without that color —

We find it has just been described by Boncard in the Zool. Proc. London as a Zonotrichia — But nevertheless, it so much resembles the species spoken of, I would like to investigate the possibility of its being the young.

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

172 Pearl, cor. Pine Street,

NEW YORK, July 31st 1878

My dear Brewster

Much obliged for the information relating to the young of Junco hyemalis -

Since writing you I have seen Boucard's description of his Zonotrichia vulcani - he states that he also has the young - which he says is very much like the young of Junco &c. "the upperside & underside are olivaceous-grey, with the centre of each feather black".

Mr Elliot & I compared again his new species with Junco alticola, Salv., they are much alike in coloring except the stripes on the back of the new species - just alike in size, also in the form & size of the bill. + amount of white & the tail

We thought they could not be separated generically very well. -

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

Lawrence G. N.
July 3 - 1876

New York Jan. 8 1879

My dear Brewster

Yours of the 3d. received & I now write to say that I expected before this, to see if I could find for you a copy of my catalogue of Sarmichaels collections & perhaps some other papers - but I have had some pressing matters requiring attention, & have been unable to look for them. In a day or two I hope to be able to give the matter attention -

As yet, have only been able to glance over the Bulletin - but can see its reputation is well maintained. I was glad to learn from Mr. Henshaw, from whom I had a pleasant call, that the Bulletin was

Gen. A. Gibbs
Jan. 8 1879

on so firm a basis —

Will send you also some more catalogues of the Ober collections.

Yours truly
Geo. N. Lawrence

Geo. N. Lawrence

Sept 2, 1879

Cotuit Sep. 2d 1879-

My dear Brewster—

Your kind letter of the 30th ult. was received by me, here to day.

My son, who is now taking his vacation was desirous of having some shooting and fishing, & we were induced to come here, by the glowing accounts published of it, in that respect. There is no gunning whatever, & but little fishing except outside.

We expect to leave for home on Thursday afternoon, and will be at the Fremont House Thursday night, & on Friday go to N. Y. by the N.O.C line.

If I find it possible to do

do, I will come out to see you on Friday morning, but as I do not want to go out unless you will be at home, will thank you to direct a note for me, to the Fremont to let me know, whether you will be there & it is convenient to see me — but if you have any other plans, do not let my coming interfere.

I could not spend much time with you, as I probably could not get there until about 10, and must be back to the Hotel by 12.

Our party consists of Mr L— & myself & my son, also his wife & child.—

Yours truly
Geo. N. Lawrence

Geo. N. Lawrence

Sept 19, 1879

45 East 21st Street.

New York Sep. 19th/79

My dear Brewster

Your kind letter of the 29th. Augt was forwarded to me at Edenit, where we went from Boston.

I wrote you from there under date of Sep. 2d. saying, that we would return to Boston on Thursday afternoon (the 4th.) & would leave for home the next day at 1 P.M. & as this would permit of my coming to see you on Friday morning - I would do so, if you would send a note for me at the Tremont, by which I would know that you were at home. As no note came there, I concluded

you were away.

Two weeks have now elapsed, & not hearing from you, I think my letter could not have been received — but you need not feel disappointed, for the day we left Cotuit I did not feel well, & should not have been able to make the promised visit. I was at home for 3 or 4 days after getting back, but am now as well as usual.

I much regretted not seeing you, and taking a hasty look at your collection, which is all I could have done.

Hope that before long I shall the pleasure of seeing you here.

Yours truly
Geo. N. Lawrence

New York Dec 15th/80

My dear Brewster.

I wish to inquire whether you have a good series of Vireosylvia gilva, & if so I would like to send for your opinion, some specimens of a Vireo obtained in Indiana.

It is considered by a competent ornithologist to be V. gilva, but does not agree well with my specimens (3) of that species.

Will be glad to hear of your health, & how you have been through the Summer.

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

G. N. Lawrence
Dec. 15-1880

Geo. N. Lawrence
Dec 26. 1874

New York Dec 20/80

My dear Brewster

I send by mail to day a specimen of the Vireosylvia from Indiana, & will thank you to make comparison with your series of V. gilva.—

They differ from any specimens of V. gilva, in having smaller & darker bills, the crowns more plumbeous & backs greener, the under plumage more fulvous, the quill & tail feathers darker (blackish). I have but three examples of gilva, and a larger series may show them to be alike. Wishing you the compliments of the season —

I am, yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

New York Jan. 5th 1881

My dear Brewster

The Tiwas came back safely - & I am glad to find that your conclusions coincide with my first determination, i. e. not at all like silver, but very near if not the same as Turquoise. of this I had but a single example from N. M. Mexico. I did not consider it at all like C. silver. I sent specimens to Ridgway requesting that he would make comparison with their Turq & Turquoise, and let me know how they agreed. I made no allusion to silver. He returned them, sending me two specimens of Turquoise, one from Arizona & 1 from Colorado, and

wrote as follows; "As to the Vireos from Indiana, I can't make anything out of them. Not V. flava." To which I replied that they did not agree with any specimens of flava, & still seemed to me much nearer Solitarius.

The only difference to note from my 3 specimens of Solitarius is the darker color of the primaries.

It seems much out of the range heretofore ascribed to it - but can not be called a straggler, as there were nine examples of it in the collection - consisting entirely of males & Vireos - but none of V. flava. - As I send a notice of its occurrence in Illinois, there will not be much to say except stating the fact.

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

G. N. Lawrence
Jan. 15 - 1881.

New York, Jan. 15 1881.

My dear Baird:

The specimens of the Vireo sent to Ridgway were the same as those you sent me for determination. I sent him your opinion of them, & he was surprised at his decision, as they differed so much from my specimens of V. gilvus. For that reason I wrote you to compare with your Vireo olivaceus. I may ask for the specimens & get a few comparisons with, or send on myself for a revision of the matter by him.

I may send a notice concerning it to the Bulletin but first wish to see the person, from whom I got the specimens, to be certain of the locality.

In the collection between our common Warblers were Specimens of Mniotilta, Seiurus, Setophaga & Geothlypis also 1 Specimen each of Dend. dominica albilora & Oporornis agilis —

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

Geo. N. Lawrence

Mch. 4, 1881.

Bro Swainson

New York March 4th/81

My Dear Brother

After getting back the specimens of Fishes from you, I wrote Bridgeway that you considered them to be P. Swainsoni, & asking if he would not view them & if so, I would send them on with any specimens of P. pilosa from which I made them differ.

He replied that he would do so - but felt satisfied he would not alter his opinion.

I sent them & knew it was a good while before I heard from him - he then wrote

Finding his story too long to quote - I send you his letter which please return sometime.

A few days since I received them

back – The one he refers to seems only known to differ from the others in being smaller below.

I am inclined to think they come from Java – but will soon know.

As I thought at first, they do not quite agree with either Java or Sumatrana – differing in the more plumbeous crown, darker bill, blackish cheeks &c.

I do not feel ready to publish any thing in the matter at present – if you incline to, I will learn the matter over to you.

Or if before determining you would like to see them again, I will send them on, with my specimens of Java & Sumatrana.

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

Geo. N. Lawrence
April 14, 1881.

New York April 14th/81

My dear Brewster

March obliged for the Bulletin extras — I was surprised to see my Pol.a melanura subverted by plumbea — supposing it to be upon a sure foundation —

I have been unable to get a specimen of plumbea as described — & my type of melanura was lost when in Mr Cassin's hands, & I have of it, only a ♀ in poor condition — I got from Dr Cooper an example labelled "melanura", which agreed with the young ♂ californica described by you, & from the same locality.

I have not seen Godman & Salvin's Biologia &c — & therefore am glad you gave the extracts describing the Cent. Amer. species of Polioptila.

The species from Panama named by me P. superciliaris — I think Sclat & Salv. refer to bilineata, as they do not recognize it in their Nomenclator. If you can inform me that it is so referred in the Biologia I will be obliged. The three Cent. Am. species if not all the same, seem to be alike in size — my species is very small, looking one third smaller than P. nigriceps — they measure as follows.

P. nigriceps Ad. ♂. Length 4 1/2; wing 2; tail 2 1/4
P. superciliaris Ad. ♂ " 3 7/8; " 1 7/8; " 1 1/2
P. bilineata Ad. ♂ " 3 3/4; " 1 3/4; " 1 1/2

I have seen quite a number & all alike — though perhaps you know it. I have not seen a typical bilineata. though one specimen from Guatemala may be it — but my species is very different from any other I have seen — and I presume it is not flavinucha.

It certainly remarkable to add two species of Procellaridae to our Fauna at the same time.

I should like to see Coryi's species & that it should be on our coast in numbers, & have escaped notice is astonishing.

Your new Rhipidoura is an important acquisition.

I am much pleased with the way you have treated Harp. leconteii — I never liked it being called a variety of rediviva, at one time I think some one considered it not even entitled to such a distinction.

To return to Polioptila, I described a species from Venezuela as P. plumbiceps, this has a blackish mark along the edge of the crown — not well defined & may be buffon's following your ruling —

P. lembeyi from Cuba has a well defined narrow black crescent running back from the eye.

Yours truly
Geo. N. Lawrence

Geo. N. Lawrence.

Apr. 21, 1881

New York April 21st 1881

My dear Brewster

Yours of the 17th received. — I am sorry you did not have my specimens of the C. Amer.n species of Polióptila — as I can but think you would have sustained my P. superciliáris — it would not do for me to say anything, as my opinion was given when I described it. Sclater is not infallible as I have reason to know.

I will be very glad to accept specimens of P. plumbea, & if you can also spare me an example of Harp. bendirei I will be much pleased — I expected to have obtained both these from Akhurst who received specimens of them from Mr Stevens for sale, but others got them before I knew he had them —

Hope I may be able to give you other birds in return.

Much obliged by your offer to find the Puffinus – but as I expect to make some exchanges with Mr Cory – can doubtless get a specimen from him.

I hope you will go with Prof Hyatt to the St. Lawrence – as you no doubt will enjoy the trip very much. Take along your fishing rod – as probably you will have opportunities to catch sea trout.

I am not able to give you any information about Bras D'or – but I remember Audubon speaks of attending a ball there, & was strongly impressed with the overflowing charms of the young women of Bras D'or.

Perhaps Prof. Baird knows something about it.

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

Geo. N. Lawrence

July 27, 1882

New York July 27/82

My dear Brewster

I received your letter of the 25th inst. while at Atlantic City N. J. & expected to have written you from there, but as there was no special hurry, left it until my return home.

I am very sorry to hear such poor accounts from Prof. Allen.—

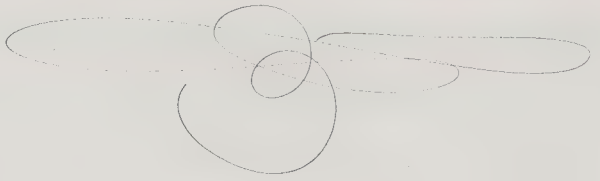
If you find he has got back, when you return to Cambridge, I will be obliged by your letting me know how he is.

I will be much pleased ~~to get~~ a pair or the ♂ only of A. virginica, which I have been unable to get, & shall hope some time to make you a return for your generous gifts.—

There is no hurry to send N. virginia — so do when convenient — therefore direct to you at Cambridge,

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence



Geo. N. Lawrence

Sept. 26, 1882

New York Sep. 26th 1882

My dear Brewster

The box of birds was received yesterday – for the beautiful skin of H. virginiæ I am greatly obliged – it is a species I have long been desirous of possessing –

I saw some Colorado birds, lately sent to a dealer, & hoped to find a specimen in it – but did not – picked up a H. rufi capilla which I at first thought was it –

I will write Capt. Bendire thanking him for the specimens sent me – though there are none I do not possess – yet such fine specimens are acceptable –

He has always been most

liberal in his contributions
I hope he will find some in-
teresting species at his new locality.
I am very glad to hear such
favorable accounts of Mr Allen-
his lung trouble being the most
serious cause of apprehension.—
Yours truly
Geo. N. Lawrence

Since writing the above I have
examined the Jays, which I
supposed to be Stelleri— they
agree well with C. stelleri annec-
tens, a form I did not have.—

Geo. N. Lawrence

Oct. 6, 1882

New York Oct. 6th 1882

My dear Mr. Brewster

Much obliged for the information that Capt. Bendire has sent to the S. I. for me - a pair of Scops Kennicotti, which I particularly desire to have, and this was known by Capt. Bendire, who with his usual liberality has sent them for me -

I am going to write Prof. Baird to day & will speak about them, but as he will be here in about 10 days on his way back to W. will remind him of it again.

I have written to Capt. Bendire expressing my thanks

for his acceptable donations.

My decision about the birds was the same as yours.

I have written to Prof Allen & sent a Hummingbird for him - but he may not be at home - an immediate answer is not required.

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

Geo. N. Lawrence

Mch. 14, 1883

New York March 14th/83.

My dear Brewster

I write to ask whether you have specimens of Bapidonia pallidicinctus, if not, I will be glad to send you a pair.—

I wish you would inform me as to Prof. Allen's health. I had a letter from him some weeks ago - from which I judged he was not mending very fast.—

I am not sure if I write you that I got no specimen of Scops Kennicotti from the S. I. Ridgway wrote they had no duplicates. I was surprised at the number of Micrathene whitneyi obtained by Mr. Stephens in Arizona — what became of

them all? I had a letter lately from Capt. Bendire, he had sent over 200 skins to the S. I & had another lot to send soon.—

He write last fall that all his skins wanted go to the S.I. and there was no reason why I should not have specie that I wanted, when there were duplicates.— He now sends the names of such as he has sent duplicates of a few of which I want, but have not yet tried for them.— If I was on the spot I could probably get birds from them easier than by writing.—

I have just received a specimen of Callipepla Squamata from New Mexico, agreeing with one from the City of Mexico.—

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

Geo. N. Lawrence

March 30, 1883

New York March 30th 83

My dear Brewster

I am sorry to hear that you are suffering from Neuralgia — last winter I had quite a severe attack of it & a slight one this year.

I was disappointed to find that by an earlier application I might have had specimens of M. Whitneyi — The reason I did not was — that I did not wish to be asking for birds, until I could make some return.

After Ridgway writing me that they had no Dacnis Cayanna to spare, it would hardly do to try to prove that they should have. I think Batt. Bendire could not have marked them for me, as both

Prof. Baird & Ridway said, if any were designated for me, I should have them.— If they received four specimens, I think one could have been spared.

I had a letter lately from Bendire he says that ~~he sent~~ last fall he sent 222 Skins to the S. I.

He sends a list of the duplicates that I may ask for any I want. I found out four that I required — these I have asked for & in a day or two will know the result.

Bendire says he has about 200 more Skins to send the S. I. soon.

He writes that he is disappointed in not getting some species he expected to find wintering where he now is

I am glad to learn that Mr. Allen is improving — I have had 2 or 3 letters from him lately.

It has been snowing hard all the morning & still continues. (1 P. M.)

Bad for the Spring birds.

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

Geo. N. Lawrence

Apr. 9, 1883

New York April 9th 1883.

My Dear Brewster

I have an answer from Ridgway respecting the 4 species of birds I wanted, of which Bendire said he had sent duplicates — R. says; In the collection of birds sent by Bendire there were no duplicates of the species named by you — what might seem to be duplicates to him — are not necessarily so to us" he says, they want some for exchanging & some for their skin series &c. He expects another large box from him & in that it is quite likely there may be some to spare. Perhaps you can then get some also —

I notice in Proc. Nat. Mus.

that Belding who is collecting
in Lower California, has found
both Merathen whitneyi and
Scops flammeolus to be common.
He is still there & they are expect-
ing a consignment mail from him.
He has discovered 4 new birds
on his present trip, soon to be
described.
He (Ridgway) knows I want M. whitneyi
but I have not great hopes
of getting a specimen.

Yours truly
Geo. N. Lawrence

Geo. N. Lawrence

Aug. 27, 1883

New York Aug. 27 '83

My dear Brewster

On my return from the country a short time since, I found a circular calling a meeting for the purpose of founding an "Amer. Ornit. Union" - I had not heard of such a plan being contemplated.

As an answer is requested whether I would attend the meeting, will state - that I shall probably be absent from the City at that time - but owing to my inability to hear what is said, I have for a long time, given up attending meetings. In fact

over

can no longer take an active part in any such matters, & consider that my age exempts me from any participation therein.

Hoping that you may succeed in establishing the Union on a satisfactory basis.

I am yours truly
Geo. N. Lawrence

Geo N. Lawrence

May 6. 1887

New York May 6 1887

My dear Brewster

After you left I found your hen & did not forward it to you, as yesterday I had a telegram from Cory saying he would be here this morning - I intended to return it by him if he was going back to Boston - but as he expects to go to Washington, I send it by mail.

Cory did not have many birds but probably two new ones -

As regards some of your birds we did not determine fully - think for the large Owl you had better consult Sharpe's description of the different ages of Lyrurus virgatum - Brit. Mus. Cat.

I looked at Coccothraustes abeillei & think yours is the 9 — the sexes are very different. —

The Basileuterus we did not compare, it is probably either rufifrons or delattrii — the latter is entirely yellow below — the other has only the throat yellow — otherwise much alike — The Campylorhynchus may be pallescens from middle Mexico — see also C. affinis. —

This we did not look up. —

You had a small owl with a rufous patch on the throat Cory has the same I think.

These are the only species I think of to comment on —

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

Geo. N. Lawrence

May 10. '87

New York May 10th 1887.

My dear Mr Brewster.

Yours favor of the 8th just to hand - glad you received the pen safely.

The two Orioles promise well to be new - one somewhat resembled my I. formosus, which you may require when describing it. - Sclater does not admit my species - but I do not agree with him, ~~You have~~ also a Pigeon Engyptila somewhat like my E. jamnerè - which we did not compare as closely as we should have done - my species is not admitted by some, & I do not to differ from Jamaicensis.

The Macaw is no doubt militaris, I so thought it at first, but the tail

differed entirely from my specimen, which is a young one - the tail, of which above is bright blue & below dull golden yellow.

Finsch says "Cauda cordide aurantiis." - His remarks are in German, & I do not know whether he speaks of the tail differing so much in color in the young. —

I intended asking of the guacks you have from Dacota are typical Virginianus - you will remember some I have, said to come from there are much like floridanus. ——

Please let me know

Yours truly
Geo. N. Lawrence

P.S. My birds are to go to the Amer. Mus. of N. H. —

Geo. N. Lawrence

May 28-1887

In re Mex. Birds

New York May 25th 87

My dear Brewster

By Adams I send you the type of Engystilla gaumeri & 4 specimens of Ist. formosus. My collection went to the Museum of N. H. on Monday - I thought you would want the above birds, & kept them out - they belong now to the Museum, but you can return them to me. My specimen of D. sclateri, I did not keep out - & could not get it. It has the wing on the back entirely black, but the specimens in the Nat. Mus. have yellow mixed in with the black. these you had better ask Ridgway for - especially for the ♀ of sclateri -

This is marked, but like the ♂, but the colors are duller — it differs so entirely from the ♀ of formosus — that I sent the 2 female to Sclater, thinking it would convince him that he was wrong in considering formosus not to differ from Sclateri — he had never seen the ♀ of formosus — He adhered to his opinion, & wrote me that the specimen sent as the ♀ of formosus was the ♀ of S. punctulatus.

I think this very absurd, for so careful an ornithologist as Prof. Innichrast would know better than to send a pair to the S. S. types, & a pair to me as ♂ & ♀, collected by himself, if they were not so — Besides punctulatus comes from a very distant locality. One of my specimens is a ♂ not quite mature & shows the olive on the back like the female — which is further proof —

Did you compare the Icterus, you thought might be nigrior, with I. prosthemelas?

You spoke of sending me a specimen of Basilina xanthosi — if you have one to spare, I will be obliged for it — as being one of my naming, I would like it for one of my shades —

The C. gannetti is thought by some to be C. jamaicensis — but I do not — one important difference I remember, the rictus on the quills in gannetti, cover the entire web — in jamaicensis it does not reach the shaft. —

It was quite a trial to part with my collection, that I had spent so many years in getting together & much study in their determination. At my age I thought it was best to see it satisfactorily deposited. —

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence.

Geo. N. Lawrence

June 1– 1887

New York, June 1st 1887

My dear Brewster

Your letter of May 30th is just to hand. I would have written you to day of Galbraith's return. He got but six specimens of Bachman's Warbler – two each adult ♂ ♀ & two young females – the latter showing very little color & much like the ♂ Tennessee Warbler – these are desirable for if one of them had been obtained with out the others, I think its determination would have been difficult –

I found Mr G. did not incline to, $10 a pair. thought from their rarity & great he should get a good price – he will take $15 a pair for the adults, I proposed that one of the young should be added – for $20, to which he agreed. If this arrangement suits you, I will send

them on - All are in my possession - the other adult ♀ belongs to me, and I am not sure what will be done with the other pair - No one besides you has had the offer of them. -

Galbraith killed none himself, all were procured by his attendants -

We got only nine of Swainson's Warbler although specially looked for. -

I expect to write an article about them - as the females show no black on the breast, & the males differ somewhat in color from the first one &c. -

I will see Prof. Allen as to the chance of getting it in the July Auk. -

I brought a few birds from Mr. G - to determine, & fill the vacuum of my collection, one I think is Vireosylvia philadelphica. also a specimen of Forster's Tern in adult Winter plumage, with a dark bill, just like Baird's plate. -

There is a Warbler I have not made out in very dull plumage -

He has a specimen of Colaptes auratus which has the upper mandible curved to nearly a half circle passing down the side of the lower mandible.

He has good specimens of the Tennessee Warbler. Would you like any of the above, he is generally moderate in his prices -

I will be much pleased to get the Xanthus' Hummers, but you need not send them, until you return the birds loaned.

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

G. N. Lawrence

June 5 - 1887

In re Icterus spurius
et pustulatus.

New York June 5 - /87

My dear Mr. Brewster.

Your letter of the 3d with check for $20 is received. It was right to send it to me as it might have troubled Galbraith to collect it.

I expect to go over to West Hoboken to morrow, when I will pay him & get for you the desired birds, if at a reasonable price, will not send the Bachman's Warblers probably until Tuesday with the others if I get them.

The 9 Swainson Warblers I offered to Sondheim at $1 each. But he did not want them - said he had 4 on hand. Can you suggest any one who might want them? -

The Mexican collection was a fortunate purchase to get so many -

rarities & new birds.-

I cant agree with Ridgway as to the spotted Oriole being punctulatus- unless he can produce an undoubted example of that species to match it- He considered the ♀ of my formosus to be punctulatus, Did not think the two examples knit as formosus, were of the same species-, I can see no reason why they should not be the same, comming together as much from Yucatan- Even if closely resembling punctulatus there are plenty of cases where the females of allied species can only be known by the males comeing with them-

But it is very unlike any female of punctulatus-

The bird he thinks wagleri, has quite a familiar look to me, but it did not agree with my specimens- Sclater in B. Mus. Cat. in describing Ict. wagleri does not speak of any chesnut band on the breast below the black-

I notice he speaks of punctulatus as having the "interscapulum yellow, distinctly marked with large oval black spots". In my specimens the spots are very small.

I would ask Ridgway for their examples of-

Icterus Sclateri
" wagleri and
" punctulatus.

Without more light I cannot agree with either Sclater or Ridgway-

Yours truly
Geo. N. Lawrence

Geo. N. Lawrence

June 7, 1887

New York June 7th 87

My dear Mr. Brewster

I was out to see Mr Galbraith & bought for you the C. aurocapillus & Vireo philadelphicus - $1 for the two - He had but a few Tennessee Warblers & all were sold -

He has quite a quantity of Crows, smaller than ours & are I think the Florida form - if you wish any the price is 50 cts each

I send the above with the Backman's Warbler by mail & hope all will prove satisfactory

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence

over -

I send for your opinion — a Dendroica - which seems to be an undescribed species - it is apparently in immature plumage - though it should not be at the date collected.

In size, markings of the tail, & bill - it agrees with D. castanea - but in plumage they do not agree in any respect -

Please let me know what you think of it -

L —

I forgot to say, the exact locality of all these birds is. Mandeville, La.-

Ges. N. Lawrence

June 21. 1887

New York June 21/87

My dear Mr. Brewster

I am not sure whether I acknowledged the $1 for the Flicker & Vireo & thanked you for the Cantus Hummers, which I am much pleased to get.

I was surprised yesterday to find on my table your letter of 12th June, which I had overlooked as the contents were new to me. I must have taken it for an older letter. —

It was certainly careless, & you must have thought it strange to get no reply, especially about the Eggs ordered.

Prof. Allen took all the Swainson's Warblers, as well as the other set of

Bachmans W. also a pair of the Crows that I had - the latter is smaller than the Common Crow, which made me suppose them to be the Florida form - if so, they are of interest from locality - my collection being away, I could not make the comparison.

I will go over to Galtraiths soon & no doubt can get a pair of the Crows - I will send them as he cannot conveniently. It takes half a day to go & see him.

Prof. Allen I think is to leave to morrow for the Summer -

I was surprised to learn that the Warbler was the young of D. vigorsii - I had not seen in that plumage, but found it since in a collection just received from Florida.

I have sent a paper for the July Auk - describing the last capture of Bachman's Warblers & the plumage of the females is certainly of interest.

Yours truly
Geo. N. Lawrence

Geo. N. Lawrence

July 15 1887

New York July 15. '87

Dear Mr Brewster—

Your letter of the 11th inst. is received with $1 for the Crows. I felt doubtful about them & from their size thought they possibly were flonidanus— they are worth having I suppose for locality.

Galbraith collects to sell to feather dealers & milliners & pays no attention to time of collection or sex— he did so in the case of the Bachman's Warblers because I requested him to.—

I thought all the Bachman's Warblers had on the date they were collected. I am quite sure he

could not now give the precise date of the ♀ not marked.

You can rely upon its being collected at the same time as the others, & can surely fix upon the month.

He has quite a number of the Crows - but none have the sex determined or marked in any way - but they were all collected at Mandeville, La. this last Spring -

I am sorry you are disappointed about them. But I feel quite sure no further information can be had. —

Remember he collected hundreds of birds, & for the purpose he wanted them - there was no object in noting any thing about them —

I am glad to hear that Mr Cabanis has been so successful there cannot but be many birds of interest in the collection —

Yours truly

Geo. N. Lawrence